

In the News

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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EXECUTIVE OFFICE
OF THE MAYOR
John A. Wilson Building
1350 Penn. Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20004
Phone: (202) 727-2980
Fax: (202) 727-6561
www.washingtondc.gov

Message from the Mayor

On October 30, I announced the kickoff of the District's Hypothermia Watch Partner Public Information Campaign. Hypothermia season officially began November 1, 2002, and ends March 31, 2003. Residents, business owners, and others are encouraged to call the Hypothermia Shelter Hotline at 1(800) 535-7252 to report the location of people who may need help.

I encourage everyone who lives or works in or visits the District to take action by calling the hotline when you see someone on the street appearing to need help. If we have someone's location, we can provide them warm clothing, blankets, warm beverages, medical assistance, and other resources.

On an annual basis, the District serves more than 13,000 people through its shelter system. On November 1, because it's the start of hypothermia season, the District added 465 emergency shelter beds. We expect an additional 260 emergency shelter beds will be available by December 1, 2002.

According to the DC Department of Human Services' latest figures, there are about 9,770 homeless people in our city. That is far too many. To help accommodate the homeless, we have 8,449 beds available in emergency, transitional, or permanent housing.

To prepare for hypothermia season, we have been working closely with homeless services advocates and providers around the issue of homelessness in the District. The Hypothermia Watch Partner initiative provides an opportunity for government agencies, businesses, faith-based organizations, and the larger community to come together and tackle the issue.

The Department of Human Services (DHS) will coordinate shelter and other services for the homeless during hypothermia season. DHS manages the Hypothermia Watch Partner Campaign in partnership with other District agencies: the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD), Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department (FEMS), Department of Mental Health (DMH), DC Department of Health (DOH), and the DC Emergency Management Agency (DCEMA). Also, DHS established a Hypothermia Watch Partnership with the Downtown DC Business Improvement District (DC BID) to encourage business owners to call the hypothermia hotline to report people who may need help.

In the coming cold months, over 250 metropolitan police officers, Salvation Army grate patrol staff, United Planning Organization vans, and mental health workers will canvass the city nightly to seek out homeless persons in need of shelter assistance. During hypothermic periods, MPD communications will broadcast hourly to patrol units reminding officers to look out for homeless individuals who need assistance.

DHS is distributing buttons, decals, flyers, posters, and business cards with the hypothermia hotline number throughout the city. The flyers and business cards list shelters where homeless individuals may go on cold nights. The hotline number will also be advertised on radio, television, and Metro buses and in the Metro rail system.



AGENCY WEBSITES

[Office of Tax and Revenue](#)

[Department of Parks and Recreation](#)

[Department of Employment Services](#)

[Metropolitan Police Department](#)

[Office of Boards and Commissions](#)

[Commission on the Arts and Humanities](#)

[Advisory Neighborhood Commissions](#)

Convention Center Headquarters Hotel

In a stellar development for our city, I was proud to announce last week that the District will begin negotiations with Gould Properties and Marriott International for the development of a Convention Center Headquarters Hotel at 9th Street and Massachusetts Avenue, NW, on the west side of the new Washington Convention Center.

This is a tremendous development for our city. Together, the Newseum and a new Convention Center hotel represent \$1 billion in investment for our city. In addition, in the area between those two projects, we will see billions of dollars of new investment in arts, culture, entertainment, retail, housing, and commercial space.

Best of all, the headquarters hotel—scheduled to open in late 2006 or early 2007—is expected to generate 1,300 jobs and over \$19 million in annual tax revenue for the District.

A few years ago, the new convention center was a hole in the ground. Now, we are only a few months away from it being a bustling center of commerce. We seized the day on a tremendous opportunity to shape the redevelopment of the largest and most valuable city-owned parcel in the central business district.

However, without a headquarters hotel with a strong room block agreement and adjacent meeting spaces and ballrooms, the convention center would not be competitive. The Washington Convention Center Authority, the Washington, DC Convention and Tourism Corporation, and the hospitality community have worked with many meeting planners in setting up plans for the center.

I am also happy to report that advance bookings for our new Washington Convention Center are very strong. More than 160 conventions and meetings have chosen the Washington Convention Center—representing about 1.6 million attendees, nearly 2.9 million room nights and \$1.4 billion in spending. Currently, planners of 12 tentative conventions and meetings have just been waiting for today's announcement. That equates to nearly 120,000 attendees and 230,000 room nights – that is almost \$167 million in spending in our city.

Community Profile

Lisa Antoine

At the age of 14, ninth grader Lisa Antoine has already shown extraordinary commitment to the community. She is the model of a dedicated volunteer.

For two years, Lisa has been an active member of the Youth Task Force at the American Red Cross, National Capital Area, by volunteering two days each month for a total of nearly 200 hours. Her other volunteer projects include dancing with individuals living with terminal illnesses at the Northern Virginia Training Center, promoting literacy on National Youth Service Day, painting a mural on Join Hands Day, promoting safety on World Refugee Day, and helping plan a scavenger hunt for National Kids Day. Hundreds of individuals have benefited from her dedication to community service.



Lisa Antoine

A resident of Ward 4, Lisa has been described as a talented artist, public servant, problem solver, and excellent mediator. Her actions clearly mirror her personal integrity and dedication to the Red Cross. Whether she is teaching kids disaster preparedness drills or helping them with arts and crafts, she is always fully engaged and committed.

Lisa is the November youth winner of the Mayor's Community Service Award, sponsored by the DC Commission on National and Community Service. If you would like to nominate a youth or adult for the monthly award, visit www.ncncs.dc.gov for nomination information, or call (202) 727-9461.



Newseum Design Unveiled

Another magnificent building is in the works for downtown DC!

Last week, the District of Columbia and the Virginia-based Freedom Forum unveiled a design for a new, much larger Newseum, located on Pennsylvania Avenue adjacent to the Washington, DC, National Mall and its monuments and museums. The museum was previously located in Arlington, Virginia. The unveiling marks a milestone in the Freedom Forum's plans to relocate the news museum and Freedom Forum headquarters to Pennsylvania Avenue and Sixth Street, NW.



Newseum design is displayed.

With the Newseum's move to the District, we have attracted a world-class institution to Pennsylvania Avenue that will help spur economic development in our neighborhoods and create job opportunities. It's also a great place to take our children so they can see firsthand what the founding fathers of our country envisioned with the First Amendment—a free press tapping into a marketplace of ideas.

The new interactive museum of news, which will have three times the exhibition space as the original facility in Arlington, is being designed by Polshek Partnership Architects, the firm responsible for the critically acclaimed Rose Center for Earth and Space at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City.

The façade of the building features the 45 words of the First Amendment to the US Constitution, etched into a stone panel facing Pennsylvania Avenue. The six-level, approximately 215,000-square-foot, Newseum portion of the building is composed of three rectangular “bars”—suggesting the sections of a three-dimensional newspaper.

More than any other city in the world, we must be the concrete manifestation of democracy: the physical appearance of Washington must promote our most sacred ideals. That's why I'm pleased that the design of the Newseum maintains the architectural beauty of our city, which has been built to represent the freedoms we all share—free press, free speech, and the free spirit for all people.

Snow Summit

The kids may love it, but to many adults, a snowstorm can wreak havoc on getting around. On November 1, the District held its third annual “Snow Summit.” The event is a pep rally for city workers and officials who will be involved in this winter's efforts to keep our city safe and plowed during storms of all kinds.

Snow Summit attendees consisted of employees from the Department of Public Works (DPW) and the Department of Transportation (DDOT). They included heavy and light plow drivers, quality assurance teams, mechanics, supply and fleet support staff, technology and communications personnel, parking enforcement officers, Snow Command Center staff, and field operations supervisors.

Most of the snow team employees have already attended route and procedures orientation, equipment and driver instruction, as well as other training courses. Simply put, the city is more prepared for winter than it has ever been. The important components of the 2002-2003 Snow and Ice Removal Program include:

- **Better Equipment** – There are now over 440 pieces of equipment in the snow inventory. Of the nearly 250 snowplows, over half of the trucks are new. Most of these trucks are multi-purpose, equipped to plow, spread salt, or spray de-icing compounds.
- **Faster Service to Neighborhoods** – VMS, Inc., the District's Federal Highways partner, will take on the job of clearing nearly 75 miles of federal highways within the city limits, including the District's major bridges, interstates, and main roads. This allows municipal resources to move more quickly to neighborhood streets.
- **Tougher Enforcement Along Emergency Routes** – Cars parked or disabled on posted Snow Emergency Routes during a declared snow emergency will be ticketed, fined \$250, and towed.

A new public information brochure describing the city's snow plan has also been mailed to District residents. The brochure details the projected timeline for municipal response to winter storms ranging from a light dusting to a full-blown blizzard. Bring on the snow! We're ready!



Art On Call

On November 1, I was thrilled to pick up a brush and paint a layer of primer on a Capitol Hill fire and police call box. After languishing for years, these historic pieces of Washington, DC heritage are on their way toward preservation for future generations.

The DC Heritage Tourism Coalition (DCHTC), DC Commission on Arts and Humanities, the District Department of Transportation, and Downtown DC Business Improvement District are to thank for spearheading an effort to preserve our call boxes citywide. We are calling the effort “Art on Call.”

For the past two years, the DCHTC has worked with more than 50 community groups in as many neighborhoods and 200 volunteers from all wards in the city to survey the conditions of boxes located in the neighborhoods.

Now, some 600 boxes have been identified for re-use as artistic displays that will incorporate local history. Artists will decorate the box exteriors, and historians will provide documents for the interiors such as old photographs, quotes from long-time residents, poems, or notes on historic events or personalities.

The District Department of Transportation is responsible for cleaning and repairing the call boxes and has committed more than \$250,000 to the project. The contract to do the refurbishing has been awarded to northeast Washington contractor, Unity Construction.

Here in the District, we are committed to historic preservation, and that is why I am excited about this new project. Our historical and cultural landmarks provide a link to our past and to our future. Sometimes, the best window into our future is from the past. I hope we continue the preservation evolution happening in the District.

The call boxes are a great opportunity to dress up our city streets. Just as we all enjoyed the Party Animals, I am sure the call boxes will be the center of conversation as well. They will illustrate the District’s vibrant culture and history—neighborhood by neighborhood.

District Activities



Mayor Williams greets a Marriott employee at the successful Party Animals auction.



Mayor Williams announces the new headquarters hotel near the new Washington Convention Center.



At the ESPN Zone, Mayor Williams announces a partnership between the 2003 World Figure Skating Championship and the Special Olympics.



Community News

- [Mayor's Task Force Releases Report](#)
- [Mayor Williams, District Leaders Express Support for National Gun Ballistics Database](#)
- [District to Seek Second Appraisal on Proposed Purchase of Impound Lot](#)

[Click here](#) to view news releases.

Upcoming Events

11/5 to 1/12	Leaf Collection in the District
11/13	Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered Town Hall Meeting 6:30 pm Howard University—Blackburn Center 2397 6th Street, NW
11/13	National Caregivers Month Information Fair 10 am - 3 pm One Judiciary Square 441 4th Street, NW
11/15 to 11/16	America Recycles Day in DC 9 am - 3 pm Washington Monument Grounds—Constitution Avenue side
11/21	Greater Washington Urban League Thanksgiving Luncheon 11 am - 2pm DC Armory
11/21	Hispanic Expo 2002 10 am - 12 noon Euclid Street Satellite One-Stop Career Center 1704 Euclid Street, NW

[Click here](#) to view the Mayor's daily schedule.

